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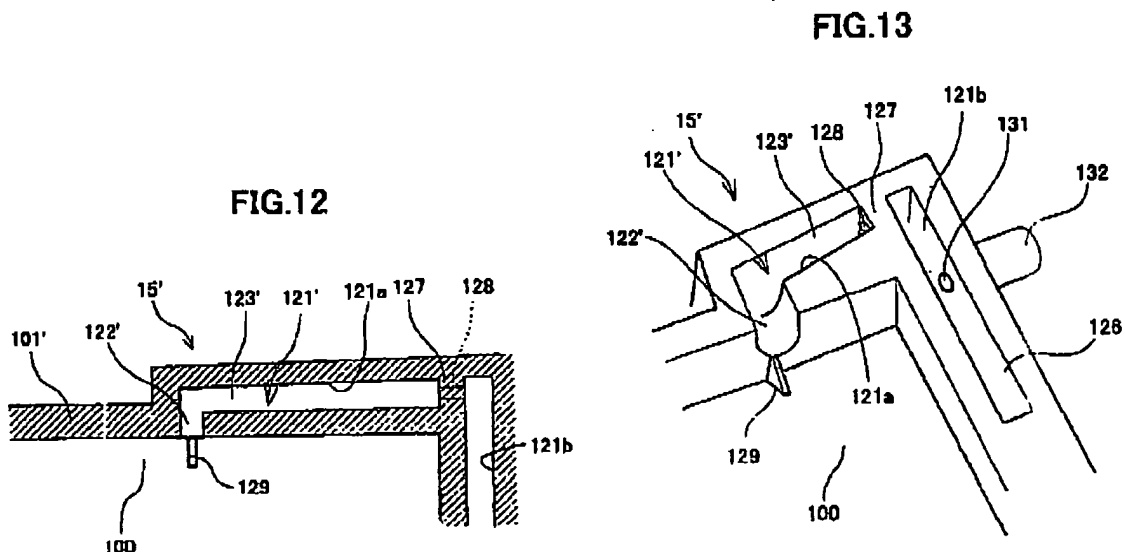
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### REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 13, 2008. Claims 1-54 were pending, with claims 1-5, 12-18, 21, 22 and 25-54 having been withdrawn by the Patent Office from examination. By this Amendment, withdrawn claims 1-5, 12-18, 21, 22 and 25-54 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 6, 19, and 23 have been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter, and new claims 55-63. Accordingly, claims 6-11, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 55-63 are now pending, with claims 6, 19, and 23 being in independent form.

Claims 6-11, 19, 20, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,712,460 to Ohashi et al.

The present application relates to improvements devised by applicant to a configuration of a liquid container for storing liquid for an imaging apparatus. For example, in an aspect of the improvements, an air flow path includes a plurality of trenches formed at the container main body, and a through hole that is formed at a wall separating the trenches. Figs. 12 and 13 of the present application shows an exemplary embodiment of such feature and is reproduced below.



The configuration of air flow path 121' with the trenches 121a and 121b and the through

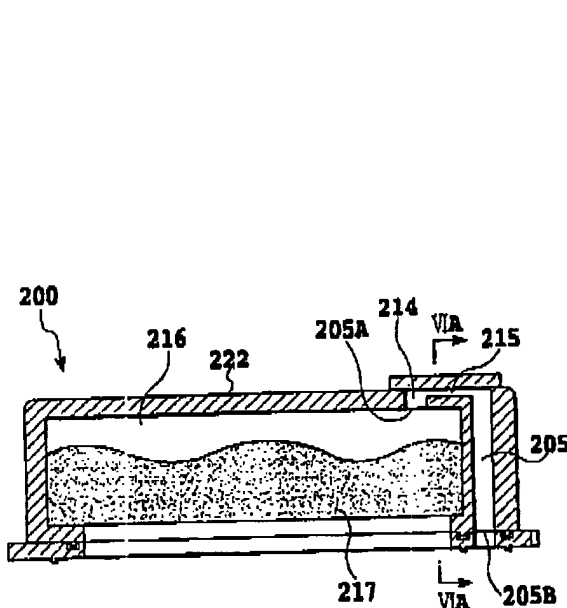
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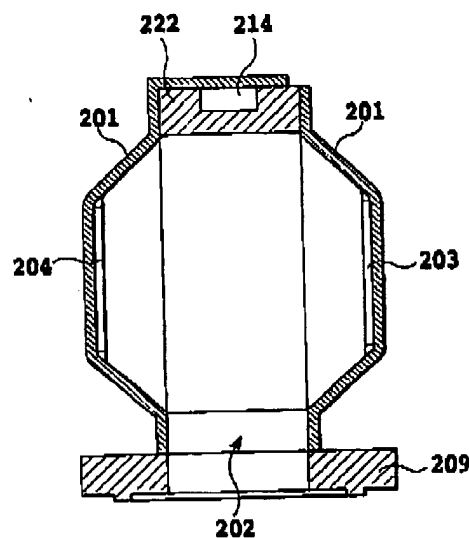
hole 128 allows communication of air between the trenches 121a and 121b and at the same time makes it difficult for ink that enters the trench 121a to penetrate into the trench 121b.

Ohashi, as understood by applicant, discloses an inkjet printing apparatus including a sub-tank supplied with ink from a main tank and serving as a reservoir for the ink. The sub-tank (200) has a movable film sheet (201), and a supply/discharge channel (205) that connects to an opening (205A) formed at a ceiling section of the sub-tank (200) through a horizontal channel (215) formed in a top horizontal frame (222).

Figures 6A and 6B of Ohashi are reproduced below:



**FIG. 6A**



**FIG. 6B**

The Office Action equates the supply/discharge channel (205) of Ohashi with an air flow path. However, the supply/discharge channel 205 of Ohashi does not include a plurality of trenches and a through hole that is formed at a wall separating the trenches.

Ohashi simply does not teach or suggest that such means for controlling or stopping the flow or spread of ink into the air flow path nor does it teach or suggest means of preventing

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blockage in the air flow path by ink.

Applicant maintains that the cited art, even when considered along with common sense and common knowledge to one skilled in the art, does not render unpatentable a liquid container wherein an air flow path includes a plurality of trenches formed at the container main body, and a through hole that is formed at a wall separating the trenches.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 6, 19 and 23, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.


In addition, the cited art fails to teach or suggest other aspects of the present application, including, for example, (1) each of the trenches has a wall formed by the flexible member (claims 55, 58, 61), and (2) a liquid introduction path for introducing liquid into the liquid container in a downward direction, wherein said liquid introduction path is separate from the air flow path (claims 56, 59, 62).

In view of the remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Paul Teng, Reg. No. 40,837  
Attorney for Applicant  
Cooper & Dunham LLP  
Tel.: (212) 278-0400